AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of communication comprising:

accessing, in response to a request for a service, information indicative of a potential delay in accessing the requested service;

transmitting at least one message comprising ~~existing delay~~ information ~~corresponding with an~~ indicative of an estimated delay length associated with accessing the service, the estimated delay length being determined based on the information indicative of the potential delay and previously collected information indicative of at least one delay in accessing the requested service ~~through an open loop network~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the estimated delay length comprises at least one time interval between a first instant corresponding with a received service request and a second instant corresponding with granting service access.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the estimated delay length comprises at least one time interval between a first instant corresponding with a received autonomous service request generated at a predefined moment in time and a second instant corresponding with granting service access.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the predefined moment in time comprises at least one of a periodic and an aperiodic instant.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein accessing said information indicative of the potential delay in accessing the requested service comprises accessing

information indicative of ~~the estimated delay length corresponds with~~ at least one of traffic congestion, channel condition, system loading, processor occupancy, queuing delay, and scheduler delay.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, comprising:

determining, based on the previously collected information indicative of said at least one delay in accessing the requested service, at least one pattern associated with the potential delay in accessing the requested service through an ~~wherein the~~ open loop network that comprises at least one of a wireline network and a wireless network; and

determining the estimated delay length based on the information indicative of the potential delay and said at least one pattern.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein determining said at least one pattern comprises determining said at least one pattern based on at least one of traffic congestion, channel condition, system loading, processor occupancy, queuing delay, and scheduler delay associated with at least one previous request for the service ~~comprising: collecting information corresponding with at least one parameter associated with service access~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7, ~~comprising:~~ wherein determining said at least one pattern comprises determining said at least one pattern based on a heuristic technique ~~associated with the at least one parameter~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[8]] 6, wherein determining said at least one pattern associated with the potential delay in accessing the requested service comprises determining at least one pattern indicating a time variation of the potential delay in accessing the requested service ~~the at least one parameter comprises at least one of traffic, channel condition, and service demand~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of communication comprising:

in response to a request for a service, receiving at least one message comprising ~~existing delay~~ information ~~corresponding with an~~ indicative of an estimated delay length associated with accessing the service, the estimated delay length being determined based on information indicative of the potential delay provided in response to the request for the service and previously collected information indicative of said at least one delay in accessing the requested service ~~through an open loop network~~.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the estimated delay length comprises at least one time interval between a first instant corresponding with generating a service request and a second instant corresponding with receiving a service access grant.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the estimated delay length comprises at least one time interval between a first instant corresponding with an autonomous service request generated at a predefined moment in time and a second instant corresponding with granting service access.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the predefined moment in time comprises at least one of a periodic and an aperiodic instant.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein ~~the estimated delay length corresponds with~~ the estimated delay length is determined based on information indicative of at least one of traffic congestion, channel condition, system loading, processor occupancy, queuing delay, and scheduler delay.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, wherein receiving said at least one message comprises receiving at least one message indicative of an estimated delay length associated with accessing the service through an [[the]] open loop network [[comprises]] comprising at least one of a wireline network and a wireless network.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 15, comprising:
generating said information indicative of the potential delay ~~corresponding with at least one parameter~~ associated with service access.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein generating said information indicative of the potential delay ~~the at least one parameter~~ comprises generating information indicative of at least one of traffic, channel condition and service demand.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, comprising providing said information indicative of the potential delay.